

# Music development plan summary: Hillview School for Girls

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Liz Mason
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Holly Smith
Name of local music hub	Kent Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	University of Sussex

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and what changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

## Part A: Curriculum music

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

### Classroom Curriculum

Playing musical instruments and singing forms the backbone of our music curriculum. All students have the opportunity to access a broad range of music genre and styles which they learn to sing and play using a variety of instruments in both whole class and smaller ensemble activities. This in turn supports them in learning to communicate, to listen to and appraise music and apply their knowledge and understanding of it in the creation of new music (composition).

The model music curriculum has been considered, along with other published schemes and shared practice, and students develop skills and knowledge in playing instruments, singing, and using music technology, such as a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW), which develop over time and progressively across the key stages. Our students are

given the opportunity to be curious, to explore, be creative and grow through **making** music.

Students in Years 7 & 8 receive 2 hours of music lessons over 2 weeks, and this increases to 3 hours in Year 9.

In Years 10 & 11 students study for a GCSE in Music and have 5 hours of lesson time across the 2 weeks with an expectation that they will participate in either the Hillview Community Choir or orchestra Hillview Orchestra and preferably both. It is understood that a regular practice routine of at least 20 minutes a day is required of all students for their first study (instrument or voice / technology performance through a DAW) if they are to make appropriate progress.

In Years 12 & 13 students embark on a Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Music (Performance route) and receive 8 hours of lessons across the two-week timetable. Students who are interested in obtaining an A-level in Music will be taught alongside the students studying for the above as performing and composing are at the heart of both qualifications. We follow the OCR A-level Music specification which allows for students to play to their strengths, opting for a greater weighting or performing / composing as appropriate. The main difference between the two courses is that the A-level requires study of Set Works and these are taught whilst RSL study students focus on an independent aspect of their work.

We work in partnership with the Kent Music Hub who support us in the funding and provision of a music technology specialist for our Hillview Record Label club and Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Every student is considered as an individual and as a musician when learning music and are given specific verbal feedback during their lessons. Adaptions are made for those who have physical impairments or other SEND needs which might impact their ability to engage with the practical work where and when it is appropriate.

## **Part B: Extra-curricular music**

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles, and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

We have a strong team of visiting independent and Kent Music peripatetic instrumental and vocal teachers who provide lessons as follows:

Brass (e.g., trumpet, trombone, French horn)  
Drums (Drum kit)  
Guitar (Acoustic and electric)

Harp  
Piano  
Singing (Popular, Musical Theatre and Classical)  
Strings (e.g. violin and cello)  
Woodwind (e.g., flute, clarinet and saxophone).

Look out for the letter sent in early September to all Hillview School student families with details as to how to apply for lessons. Whilst learning to sing or play an instrument in this individual / small group setting incurs a fee, all our in-school clubs are provided free of charge.

Students can choose to participate in examinations from a variety of Exam Board syllabuses or to learn purely because they enjoy making music. The choice is theirs.

We are fortunate to have a range of instruments available in school that we can lend to students free of charge so that they can trial learning an instrument without any significant financial outlay. In addition, the Kent Music Hub hires instruments at very reasonable rates: [Musical Instrument Hire | Kent Music \(kent-music.com\)](https://kent-music.com)

Students who meet the criteria for Pupil Premium are supported with a contribution of 50% towards singing or instrumental lessons, whichever is their first study. In addition, all students up to the age of 18 can apply to Kent Music for financial support further details of which can be found here: [Financial Assistance | Kent Music \(kent-music.com\)](https://kent-music.com)

Opportunities in the wider school community include:

- Choirs
- Ensembles (including an orchestra, strings group and flute choir).
- 'Our Voice Records', The Hillview Record Label Club in which students can form their own bands, work on covers and write original music.
- Noise Pollution – a band where any member of the Hillview Community can join with no previous experience and learn to play an instrument at a basic level and get involved in ensemble playing almost immediately.

Students have a vast range of opportunities to perform at a wide variety of school events such as the Christmas Concert with Carols, The Spring Concert and other 'Pop-Up' events designed to show case work in progress of performances associated with coursework.

In addition, the Performing Arts Team produce a musical every other year which is staged at the local E.M.Forster theatre and which provides an opportunity for as many students as possible to participate in a professional theatre setting. Our production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in July 2025 also included a Pit Band where the majority of players were students, supported by professionals, and we intend to build on this achievement in the years to come as it provides a vital opportunity to experience the career and life as a freelance musician within the Music Industry.

A Hillview Music Department Music Tour, established 2023/24, will be undertaken (with sufficient interest) every two years. In 2025/26 we are travelling to Belgium on a 4-day tour with 37 students.

Kent Music provide additional opportunities through County Groups and Summer Schools: [County Groups | Kent Music \(kent-music.com\)](https://kent-music.com/county-groups) and [About Kent Music Summer School | Kent Music \(kent-music.com\)](https://kent-music.com/about-kent-music)

All students learning an instrument and/or to sing are encouraged to join our extra-curricular clubs so that they can enjoy the true joy of music that is to make it and experience it with others and as part of a community.

Our department has several practice rooms (named after successful female musicians/composers/performers) which are equipped as follows:

**Isata Kanneh-Mason:** 1 piano, 1 drum kit and harp.

**Billie Eilish:** 1 piano, 1 keyboard & 1 drum kit.

**Christine and the Queens:** 1 piano, 1 drum kit & 1 keyboard.

**Ella Fitzgerald:** 1 piano and 1 electronic drumkit.

**Anoushka Shankar:** 2 keyboards.

**Nicola Benedetti** (Live room): Drum kit & piano.

**Chi-Chi Nwanoku** (Studio): Stand-alone PC with Cubase and Sibelius installed. 1 digital piano, electronic drum kit and a range of studio recording equipment.

Students learning to sing/and or play an instrument are encouraged to use these rooms to practice and to work on music with other students. These rooms are also where the peripatetic taught lessons take place.

## Part C: Musical performance/event and trip opportunities

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise.

We have a range of concerts, events and opportunities some of which have been described above. However, some additional information is given below.

- The Hillview Music Department Music Tour, also launched in 2023/24, will be undertaken every two years. The learning that took place as part of this experience required resilience, planning, team working, intense rehearsal and commitment from all our students which resulted in some outstanding performances at venues in The Rhineland and gave students a true experience of the career as a touring musician.
- Other local venues make function rooms available for us to put on gigs with Sixth Form students as part of their Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma work which enhances the performances that we give as part of school events.

- Kent Music has also provided collaborative opportunities to work with other schools in massed orchestral events.
- Other trips include attending live performances which have included opera and musical theatre productions, and we endeavour to link with work in the classroom and thereby enhance their learning.
- We have also been welcomed by local primary schools to deliver workshops provided by our Sixth Formers which forms another part of the Subsidiary Diploma course which includes 'Leading a Music Making Activity' and we have been invited to provide a programme of music for a local hospice in the coming academic year.

## In the future

We continue to strive to develop new and innovative opportunities, both in and out of the classroom, for our students inspired by their interests and what is relevant to their lives.

The Hillview Record Label is designed to help students understand the wider career opportunities in the Music Industry and continues to be a work in progress as we encourage students to:

- Form bands
- Write new music.
- Learn how to work successfully as an ensemble.
- How to set up a live room.
- To record work.
- Sound engineer.
- Produce
- Distribute.
- Market and promote their work and the work of others.
- Work in collaboration with student artists for cover work

The opportunities are endless and give us plenty of room to grow.

In addition, building on our work with the musical productions, we are now developing a sixth form enrichment activity where students will explore staging a musical by examining the score as a team, establishing key ideas such as leitmotif and themes and take these forwards into prop, costume and set design.

## Further information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Here at Hillview School for Girls we work with our local music hub, Kent Music, to make as much opportunity for participating in making music as possible. Please visit their website to see what they have to offer: [Home | Kent Music \(kent-music.com\)](http://kent-music.com)

We, Hillview, also publish a series of guides for parents to support their child's engagement with the curriculum as follows:

[Parent Curriculum Engagement – Y7](#)

[Parent Curriculum Engagement – Y8](#)

[Parent Curriculum Engagement – Y9](#)

[Parent Curriculum Engagement – Y10](#)

[Parent Curriculum Engagement – Y11](#)

[Parent Curriculum Engagement – Y12](#)

[Parent Curriculum Engagement – Y13](#)